Unanswered Questions: Concerns about Our Friendship and the ‘Why’.

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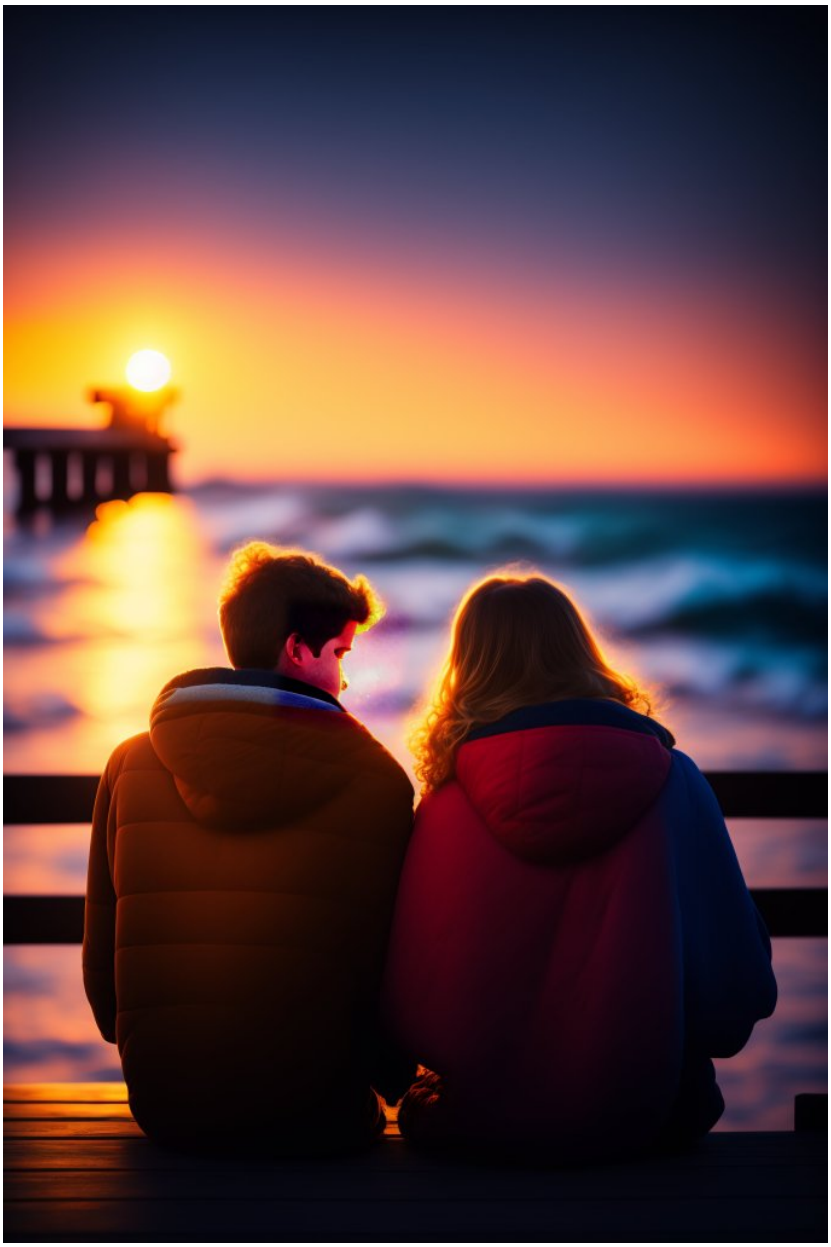
To be honest, after myself, the person I prayed for the most was Pradeep. I prayed for his health and happiness. I had a feeling that his father mistreated him in some way, and Pradeep’s reaction to him seemed appropriate. Despite being strangers, we shared a lot about our families. I always treated him with respect, affection, and concern, and he reciprocated the same. Even though people teased us, I had faith and hope in our friendship. I was also concerned about the opinions of our parents. I believed that they wouldn’t mind or care about our friendship because it was just a passing phase. As a disabled girl, I worried about how others perceived us, but my parents had no idea about my feelings. I understood their reservations about some of my male friends, but not about Pradeep. Although I knew it was unlikely, I wished they could understand the dynamics of our friendship. It was a constant source of frustration for me.



Despite my disability, I wanted people to see me as a girl with emotions, just like anyone else. The doubts and concerns that arise regarding friendships between boys and girls bothered me. It might be true for other friendships, but not for Pradeep and me. I never felt the need to prove our friendship, nor did I want anyone to undermine it. I even considered it a pointless thought. I took great care to protect our friendship because I valued him and didn't want to lose him.

In his eyes, I was just another person, and in my eyes, he was the same. He may have had other female friends who were more affectionate and closer to him than I was, but he prioritized our friendship and never abused or belittled that affection on me. Prici once asked if he was my boyfriend, and I told her that such openness was possible even among friends. I even prayed to God to protect us from any hurtful words or insults. He was my best friend, my closest confidant. I didn't consider him a family member, but he was the person I truly cherished. I wanted him to lead a happy life, to have the strength to overcome his challenges, and to receive all the good things he deserved.